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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/526,002 | 02/25/2005 | Wolfgang Gunther | 10808/219 | 9609 |
| 48581 7590 06/27/2007 BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE INFINEON PO BOX 10395 CHICAGO, IL 60610 | | | EXAMINER GARROWSKI, LEIGH M | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2825 | PAPER NUMBER |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/526,002 | Applicant(s) GUNTHER ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Leigh Marie Garbowski | Art Unit 2825 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/25/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Drawings

Figure 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Taking claim 1 as exemplary of the method claims presented, the steps that the method is comprised of are not clear; since the claim merely recites a preamble and wherein clauses, definite boundaries on the patent protection sought are not particularly clear. Thus, the claim is vague and indefinite.

Taking claim 7 as exemplary of the apparatus claims presented, the structure or means that the device is comprised of are not clear; since the claim merely recites a preamble and wherein clauses, definite boundaries on the patent protection sought are not particularly clear. Thus, the claim is vague and indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-12, 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Drechsler ["Equivalence Checking of Digital Circuits in an Industrial Environment"].

As per claim 1, Drechsler discloses a method for generating assignment information for assigning signal-path identifiers of signal paths (figure 2; "pairs are formed on the basis of the names of the signals in the two descriptions", page 202, right-hand column), of at least two different digitally stored circuit descriptions in accordance with a first description format for describing digital circuits (figure 2; "If the two designs have been successfully translated, then the correspondence must be established in a subsequent step", page 202, right-hand column), wherein the at least two circuit descriptions are each generated by converting a circuit description in accordance with a second description format (figure 2; "If the two designs have been successfully translated, then the correspondence must be established in a subsequent step", page 202, right-hand column; page 201, right-hand column; page 202, left-hand column), and the circuit description in accordance with the second description format which has a higher information content in regard to the signal-path identifiers than the circuit descriptions in accordance with the first description format ("on the basis of the names of the signals ... This method is very fast ... when the tools used ... modify the names only slightly", page 202, right-hand column; the names of the signals of the first description are thus only slightly modified, as a result of which a small amount of information can be lost), and wherein the assignment information is generated as a function of the at least two circuit descriptions in accordance with the first description format and as a function of at least part of the circuit description in accordance with the second description format (page 202, right-hand column, section 3.2 "Matching": the two network lists and the received or only slightly modified signal names of the RTL description are used to form the signal pairs of the network lists).

As per claims 2-3 and 5-6, Drechsler discloses RTL as the second description format and network lists as the first description format (see pages 201 and 202 and figure 2). A network list is a lower level of abstraction than an RTL description.

As per claim 11, a method for generating a digitally stored circuit description in accordance with a first description format of a digital circuit from a circuit description in accordance with a second description format of the digital circuit (figure 2; page 202; left-hand column), wherein the circuit description in accordance with the first description format stores the digital circuit at a lower level of abstraction than the circuit description in accordance with the second description format (figure 2; page 202, left-hand column), and the circuit descriptions accordance with the two description formats each comprise signal-path identifiers of signal paths of the digital circuit (page 202, right-hand column, section 3.2 "Matching"), and wherein the circuit description in accordance with the first description format is generated in such a way that the circuit description in accordance with the first description format has just as high an information content in regard to the signal-path identifiers as the circuit description in accordance with to the second description format ("tools contain the names", page 202, right-hand column, section 3.2 "Matching"; "to have the new names specified ... in order to achieve the correct allocation", page 203, left-hand column).

As per claim 12, Drechsler discloses (page 203) the possibility of having new signal names specified, i.e. information about modifications to the signal path identifiers.

As per claims 7-10 and 15-18, Drechsler discloses a method as well as apparatus for implementing the methods as outlined above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Drechsler.

Drechsler discloses obtaining the names of signals (page 202) and the possibility of having new signal names specified in order to achieve the correct assignment (page 203). Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to utilize Drechsler to obviate the claimed invention because a person skilled in the art knows that signals comprise one or more bits, e.g. in buses. The name of these signals is also obtained by the method, and in the case of renaming, the indicators of these names are saved so that the correct assignment is possible later. It is therefore clear to a person skilled in the art that group identifiers are also obtained.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leigh Marie Garbowski whose telephone number is 571-272-1893. The examiner can normally be reached on days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on 571-272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


LEIGH M. GARBOWSKI
PRIMARY EXAMINER